

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in light of the above amendment and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are presently pending in this case, with claims 20 and 21 amended, by way of the present amendment, without the introduction of new matter.

In the present Office Action, (i) claims 1-6, 10 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Serbetcioglu et al* (US 5,511,111), and (ii) claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Serbetcioglu et al* in view of *Rogers et al* (US 5,594,386).

First, Applicants note that the Restriction Response, with traverse, previously filed on February 20, 2001, has not been acknowledged in the present Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully maintain such traversal and request that the Examiner consider claims 11-17 on the merits.

Applicants submit that the present invention includes recognition of problems associated with conventional call forwarding systems and methods, wherein in such conventional systems call forwarding is unilaterally activated, without seeking permission from the call forwarded party, leading to abuse of the system. The presently claimed invention addresses such limitations by contacting the call forwarded party to obtain approval before activating call forwarding. See, e.g., page 2, lines 6-31 of Applicants' disclosure.

In the above respect, Applicants submit that *Serbetcioglu et al* and *Rogers et al*, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest:

receiving a request to forward calls directed to a first destination to a second destination and contacting the second destination to obtain an approval for forwarding calls to the second destination, as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added);

a switch for directing calls intended for a first destination to a second destination when call forwarding is activated and approval logic coupled to the switch for contacting the second destination to obtain approval for directing of the calls before call forwarding is activated, as recited in independent claim 18 (emphasis added).

Applicants submit that *Serbetcioglu et al* and *Rogers et al*, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each of the noted features of the claimed invention. In this respect, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clearly indicate which disclosures in *Serbetcioglu et al* and *Rogers et al* are believed to teach or suggest each feature of the claimed invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 18, as this is not apparent from the reading of the present Office Action and the *Serbetcioglu et al* and *Rogers et al* references.

In the above respect, Applicants submit that although *Serbetcioglu et al* may generally teach a telephone caller ID system and method, contrary to the assertion in the present Office Action, *Serbetcioglu et al* fail to teach or suggest the noted features of the claimed invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 18. Specifically, the present Office Action cites the Abstract and column 5, lines 30-61 of *Serbetcioglu et al*, as teaching the noted features. However, the cited portion of *Serbetcioglu et al* merely teach intercepting a call from a calling party to a called party and prompting the caller to authenticate himself and then requesting the called party to accept the call. See *Serbetcioglu et al*, column 5, line 30 to column 6, line 10. Applicants submit, however, that the cited disclosure does not teach nor suggest the noted features of the claimed invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 18.

Similarly, Applicants submit that although *Rogers et al* may teach a call management system and method including caller ID functions, *Rogers et al* fail to cure the noted deficiencies with *Serbetcioglu et al*. Accordingly, Applicants submit that *Serbetcioglu et al* and *Rogers et al*, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each of the noted features of the claimed

invention.

Applicants submit that the claimed invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 18 and claims dependent therefrom, advantageously, provides an improved call forwarding system and method due to the claimed approval step/logic.

Applicants submit that *Serbetcioglu et al* and *Rogers et al*, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the noted features of the claimed invention.

Based on the above discussion, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 18 and claims dependent therefrom are patentably distinguishable over *Serbetcioglu et al* and *Rogers et al*, taken alone or in combination.

Applicants submit that independent claim 11 and claims dependent therefrom are patentably distinguishable over *Serbetcioglu et al* and *Rogers et al*, taken alone or in combination, for substantially the same reasons as discussed above.

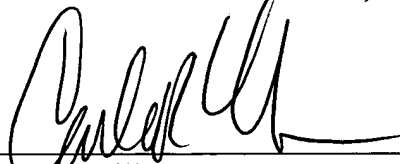
In addition, claims 20 and 21 were amended to correct discovered informalities. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested. If, however, any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone

the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & CARLSON, P.C.



6/12/01
Date

Carlos R. Villamar
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 43,224

10507 Braddock Road
Suite A
Fairfax, VA 22032
Tel. (703) 425-8508
Fax. (703) 425-8518